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Hamilton county Emergency services



EMERGENCY RESPONDER

volume 4, issue 2

summer 2005

From The Chief of Emergency Management...

UPDATE: Homeland Security In Hamilton County



In early 2004, the Governor's office of Homeland Security divided the 95 counties in Tennessee into 11 Homeland Security Districts. This process included representatives from all emergency response disciplines as well as public health and agriculture.

Hamilton County falls in District 3 with Grundy, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Marion, Rhea, Bradley, McMinn, and Pole Counties. Our marching orders were to form a District 3 Council to formulate a plan for equipping and training a CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) Response Team and to assure communication and information exchange within the district. Seventy-five percent of the Homeland Security Grant dollars are now channeled through the District 3 Council with 25% going directly to the counties.

The goals for District 3 are being accomplished as the equipment is here or being ordered and the training is underway. We have conducted one district-wide Table-Top exercise with others planned in the future. Other agencies, such as, Public Health and Agriculture are also working throughout District 3—more on that later.

Bill Tittle

EMS News

EMS Personnel Honored At Banquet



Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services honored top personnel and celebrated 17 years of emergency medical response Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at the Radisson Read House. "We started out with two ambulances", said Director Don Allen. Now Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services has 14 ambulances answering calls every day, Allen said. Medics are trained in tactical rescues and paramedics host safety programs to educate students at area schools. "You look sharp, you are sharp, and tonight's your night to shine." Mr. Allen told the audience.

Taking home a top honor was Lt. Billy Blea, a 10-year veteran of the department, who won Medic of the Year for 2005. Lt. John Miller was Medic of the Year Runner-Up.

Chief Ken Wilkerson praised the hard work of everyone at Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services. "What you do every day, on every call, makes a difference in a life," he said. With that in mind, Chief Wilkerson said emergency responders cannot "do it all by ourselves." He presented Weston Babbitt II with the Good Samaritan Award for rescuing a trapped victim from a burning car.



Chief Wilkerson presents Mr. Babbitt with the Good Samaritan Award.



Deputy Chief John Combes, Lt. John Miller, Medic of the Year Runner Up, Lt. Billy Blea, Medic of the Year, and Chief Ken Wilkerson.

Chief Wilkerson honored Captain Darlene Poole for going "above and beyond" her assignment as head of training. "The amount of care and knowledge... comes from training, and more training," Wilkerson said.

Director Allen also presented Captain Dale Head, Lt. Andy Gienapp, Tim Prince and Paul Bobenhausen with the Director's Award. All are serving in the United States military.



Chief Ken Wilkerson presents Captain Darlene Poole with the "Chief's Award."



Medical Call of the Year was presented to Lt. John Miller and Patrice Schermerhorn.



Jenny Gienapp, Dale Head and Paul Bobenhausen receive the Director's Award. Mrs. Gienapp accepts the award on her husband's behalf (Lt. Andy Gienapp)



Trauma Call of the Year: Lt. John Miller, Mike Whalen & Brian Bricker (not present)



Brandy McCaleb receives Stretcher Bearer of the Year for B-Team.



Seth Gentry receives the Stretcher Bearer of the Year for C-Team.



Rusty Odom receives the Stretcher Bearer of the Year for A-Team.

EMS News

HCEMS WORKERS KEPT RIVERBEND SAFE

From blisters caused by not-very-sensible shoes to the early stages of heart attacks, the emergency medical personnel who work each day at the Riverbend Festival treat any ailment that comes their way.

"There were 20 and 30 medics with Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services that worked at the festival every day for 10 days, both at the three EMS tents and the roving teams", said Chief Ken Wilkerson, HCEMS. Their work included providing a lot of attention for hot and dehydrated attendees on those days at Riverbend that were up there in the 90's. Chief Wilkerson said most of the EMS personnel's time was spent on treating minor injuries. "We got a lot of blisters. People were coming down wearing shoes they were not use to wearing. The other most common problems were dehydration, twisted ankles and conditions exacerbated by the heat such as heart and breathing problems," said Wilkerson.

"The festival's medical and emergency providers and other workers began meeting eight months before the annual event. We reviewed the previous year—what worked, what didn't work—so we can make improvements if needed," said Chip Baker, Riverbend's Executive Director.

"The HCEMS and police personnel coordinate via a radio frequency during Riverbend," said Wilkerson. This form of communication by radio frequency would ensure that if an "unfriendly encounter" broke out, any injuries were treated immediately as police deal with any criminal elements.

Chief Wilkerson explained that most of the medics who worked the festival did so on their "off" days as overtime. Those EMS stations outside the festival were staffed as usual and if a major emergency happened outside of Riverbend, there would be enough people on hand to respond to a 9-1-1 call.

"We feel our responsibility was and is to provide medical care to the people of Hamilton County no matter where they happen to be," said Wilkerson.

HCEMS presents Life Saving Award

By: Amy Maxwell

On Thursday, July 28, 2005, HCEMS presented the Life Saving award to two individuals at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Chief Ken Wilkerson presented Mr. Keith Cagle, a Golden Corral waiter, and Mr. Neil Garland, the Life Saving Award for providing quick emergency care to a patient in need in a life-threatening situation. On June 4, 2005, a gentleman was having dinner at the Golden Corral and experienced a potential life threatening situation. He was choking

on a piece of steak, which caused an airway obstruction. Cagle and Garland performed the Heimlich maneuver and abdominal thrusts on the choking gentleman. HCEMS was dispatched and arrived on the scene within minutes to find the gentleman talking and breathing on his own. HCEMS wanted to recognize these individuals for their quick action to provide immediate care to a total stranger.



Pictured from Left to Right: Chief Ken Wilkerson, Director Don Allen, Doyle Smith, Golden Corral Manager; Keith Cagle, Golden Corral waiter; Neil Garland, Deputy Chief John Combes, Captain Wade Batson, Lt. Jerry McDonald, Bonnie McPherson and Chris Dill.

Photo By: Amy Maxwell

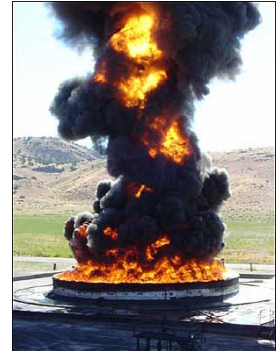
Fire Training/Haz-Mat News

Fire Training Personnel Take Terrorism Response Course in Nevada

During the week of June 27, 2005, Captain Rip Rohen, Lieutenant Jody Clift and 60 firefighters from around the United States participated in a 32-hour course on Flammable Liquids Firefighting/Terrorism Response class funded by the Department of Energy at the University of Nevada—Reno's Fire Science Academy in Elko, Nevada.

The course, geared for Municipal and Rural Firefighters, taught fire personnel industrial firefighting techniques to combat fires associated with flammable liquids in areas considered to be "soft targets" for terrorism attacks such as refineries, truck and rail terminals, rail tank cars, pressurized gas facilities, pipeline transfer stations and large liquid storage tanks.

The firefighters participated in live fire attack scenarios on the Academy's props with actual flammable fuel mixtures, consisting of diesel and benzene, and working pipe values.



The course covered all aspects of fire strategy and tactics for dealing with a wide variety of hazards commonly associated with these types of incidents. The course also covered a variety of material dealing with the psychology of terrorists, critical incident stress debriefing and environmental impacts of such incidents.

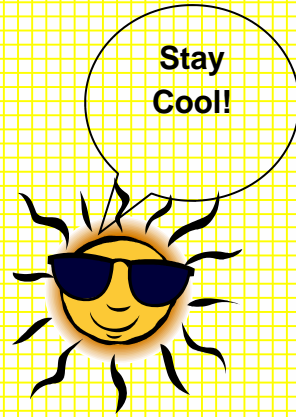
The course concluded with a live burn of the Academy's 70 foot diameter open roof storage tank that was extinguished using a strategic foam monitor attack.



*Photography by:
Eric Harlow, Oak Cliff Fire
Protection District*



Training news



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**Mark your Calendars!**

INSERVICE AT MEDIC 3's

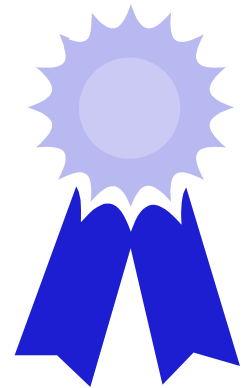
August 2005 Schedule

8/2-8/4	BTLS Instructor & Provider Class
8/11	PBTLS-Erlanger
8/25	PBTLS-Erlanger

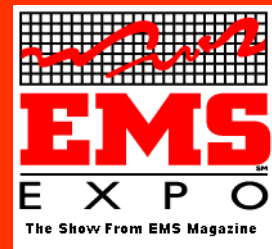
September 2005 Schedule

9/9 & 9/16	BTLS Course
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*** A First Responder course may be available in September for First Responders.

Call of the Month!APRIL 2005Medical: Debbie Walden & Brad GreenTrauma: Lt. Kevin Murphy, Gaig McDonald & Brian ChewMAY 2005Medical: Lt. David Thompson, Dean Bowen, Tracie ShannonTrauma: Debbie Walden & Brad Green**EMS EXPO 2005**

NAEMT Annual Meeting
Ernest N. Morial
Convention Center
New Orleans, LA
August 23-27, 2005



Summer Safety Tips



Water Safety

The American Red Cross is brimming with water safety tips to keep your family safe this summer. The most basic: Learn to swim! Take some lessons at your local pool. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. And always swim with a buddy; never swim alone.

Boating Safety

Whether you're the captain or passenger of a boat, following safety guidelines ensures your safety.

- Be weather wise: Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. Bring a portable radio to check weather reports.
- Bring extra gear you may need: a map of where you are, flares, sun tan lotion, first aid kit, extra sunglasses. Put those that need to be protected in a watertight pouch or a container that floats.
- Tell someone where you're going, who is with you, and how long you'll be away.
- Then check your boat, equipment, boat balance, engine and fuel supply before leaving.

Sun Safety

Summer means fun in the sun! But be safe—don't let a heat-related illness ruin your day. Always drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks when working or playing in the hot weather.

Hiking & Camping Safety

Many families will head to our national parks and forests this summer to enjoy the great outdoors. But if you're not prepared to "rough it" in the woods, hiking or camping can be a rough experience. The best way to help guarantee a good time for all is to plan ahead carefully and follow common sense safety precautions.

Information Provided by: American Red Cross

Do you have any Safety Concerns?

**Emergency Services Safety Committee
would like to hear about your
safety concerns.**

**Contact: Lt. Jerry McDonald, HCEMS
at 209-6932**

Emergency Services Safety Committee

**Lt. Jerry McDonald, Capt. Rip Rohen, Amy Maxwell,
Lt. Billy Burnette, Eric Ethridge, Jay Jones, and
Patrice Schermerhorn.**



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